

Listing of Claims (all claims are as originally filed)

1. (Original) Imparting a texture to a hearing instrument shell.
2. (Original) A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:  
fabricating a shell comprising an outer surface; and  
imparting a texture to at least a portion of the outer surface of the shell.
3. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 2, where imparting a texture comprises imparting a non-smooth texture.

Please cancel claim 4.

5. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 2, where imparting a texture comprises blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit, or applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface.
6. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 2, where:  
fabricating a shell comprises fabricating a series of layers; and  
imparting a texture comprises applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication.

7. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 2, where:  
fabricating a shell comprises fabricating a mold cavity derived from surface contours of the user's ear; and  
imparting a texture comprises modifying the mold cavity to create a texture in the outer surface.

8. (Original) Imparting a texture to an outer surface of a hearing instrument.

9. (Original) A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:  
fabricating an outer surface; and  
imparting a texture to at least a portion of the outer surface.

10. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 9, where imparting a texture comprises imparting a non-smooth texture.

Please cancel claim 11.

12. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 9, where imparting a texture comprises blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit, or applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface.

13. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 9, where:  
fabricating a shell comprises fabricating a series of layers; and  
imparting a texture comprises applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication.

14. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 9, where:  
fabricating a shell comprises fabricating a mold cavity derived from surface contours of the user's ear; and  
imparting a texture comprises modifying the mold cavity to create a texture in the outer surface.

15. (Original) A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:  
fabricating a shell comprising an outer surface; and  
imparting a texture to at least a portion of the outer surface of the shell, where imparting a texture comprises  
blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit; or  
applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface.

16. (Original) A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:  
fabricating a shell as a series of layers; and  
imparting a texture to at least a portion of the outer surface of the shell, where imparting a texture comprises

applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication; or

blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit; or

applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface.

17. (Original) A method of fabricating a hearing instrument, comprising:  
fabricating a mold cavity derived from surface contours of the user's ear; and  
modifying the mold cavity to create a texture comprising  
a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced; or  
a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes; or  
a predetermined or randomly generated pattern.